

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for his thorough review of the present application. The Office Action dated January 22, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Claims 1-16 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, the title is noted as not descriptive. Applicants hereby amend the title.

Claims 1, 2, and 6-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,335,770 to Komatsu ("Komatsu"). Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,456,350 to Ashizawa ("Ashizawa"). Claims 3-5 are rejected as being unpatentable over Ashizawa as applied to claims 1, 2, and 16. In addition, the Office Action asserts that claims 1-16 are directed to the same invention as that of claim 6 of commonly assigned and currently co-pending application no. 09/892,883 and requires the assignee to state which entity is the prior inventor of the conflicting subject matter.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, and 6-16 as being anticipated by Komatsu, the rejection of claims 1-16 as being anticipated by Ashizawa, and the rejection of claims 3-5 as being unpatentable over Ashizawa are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-5 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a plurality of common voltage lines, being provided in such a manner to cross the plurality of gate links, for applying a common voltage to the thin film transistor array". None of the cited references, including Komatsu, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-5, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 6-9 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a plurality of common voltage lines parallel to the gate lines and crossing the gate links". None of the cited references, including Komatsu, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 and claims 7-9, which depend from claim 6, are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 10-16 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a plurality of common lines extending between the signal pads and the thin film transistor array". None of the cited references, including Komatsu, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 and claims 11-16, which depend from claim 10, are allowable over the cited references.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-16 as being directed to the same invention as co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/892,883 (the '883 application), Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, at least independent claim 1 of the '883 application recites "dummy signal lines," a feature that is not recited by the claims of the present application. At least independent claim 6 of the '883 application recites "common voltage lines in an outer area of the thin film transistor array [] spaced apart from the thin film transistor array by a distance greater than or equal to 1mm," a feature that is not recited by the claims of the present application. At least independent claim 10 of the '883 application recites "at least one dummy data line, parallel to said data lines, for applying a compensation signal," a feature that is not recited by the claims of the present application. As exemplified by these distinctions between the claims of the present application and the '883 application, Applicants submit that the claims of the present application and the claims of the '883 application are not directed to the same invention. Therefore, Applicants request that the Double Patenting rejection at paragraph 13 of the Office Action dated January 22, 2003, be withdrawn.

Applicants herewith submit a "Request for Approval of Drawing Changes" to request the addition of another occurrence of reference number 110 in FIG. 5.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

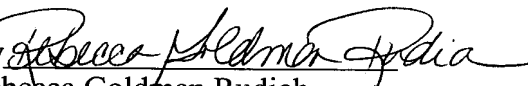
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: April 21, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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